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Léon des Avancher's discovery of the dwarfish Wa Berikomo, who are said to be only four and one-half feet high, and by D'Abbadie's visit to the Maze-Mollea, who live a little farther to the north.

Herodotus tells of a dwarfish black people on the banks of the Niger. His description of the land still holds good; but, instead of negroes, Berbers and Tuareg inhabit those regions. At the present time the most northern place in West Africa which is inhabited by dwarfs is Tenda-Maje, where they were met with by Mollien in 1818.

Pliny mentions, besides the dwarfs on the sources of the Nile, others living in what is now south-eastern Belutchistan, where the Brahui, a people of Dravida lineage, are found. Ktesias speaks of pygmies who inhabited Central India. Mr. Rousselet found in that region the dwarfish Bandra-Lok, who live in the Vindhias Mountains.

De Quatrefages considers all Asiatic dwarfish tribes as one group, which he calls Negrito, while the African ones are called Negrillo. His researches lead him to the conclusion that the traces of this race are found from India to the eastern extremity of New Guinea, and from Ceylon throughout India, Farther India, the Philippines, to Japan. In most regions they are mixed with other races. He considers the Dravida one of the most characteristic results of this mixture. It is only on the Andaman Islands and a few other isolated points that the pure race is still in existence. The author shows that individuals of Negrito type occur among the Pariahs of India, and that isolated communities in many parts of south-eastern Asia have retained the anthropological character of this dwarfish race.

De Quatrefages considers the Negrito of all these widely separated regions one race, which originated in southern Asia. When the yellow race migrated southward and the white race eastward, they were compelled to take refuge on the islands, and to migrate to more southerly countries. Thus they populated the Eastern Archipelago, and crossed to Africa.

COELHO ON ROMANIC DIALECTS. — A recent number of the *Boletim da Sociedade de Geographia de Lisboa* contains a third article by Adolpho Coelho on Romanic dialects of Africa, Asia, and America. The principal object of these researches is a study of the development of languages by isolation and admixture of foreign elements, and much new and interesting material has been collected by the author. There is a wide field for researches of this kind in North America. Coelho gives some examples of the French of Louisiana, and a brief bibliography of jargons based on English and other Teutonic tongues, many of which are spoken on our continent. The study of these would be an important goal for an American dialect society, the organization of which was lately proposed.

METLAKAHTLA. — The *American Magazine* for July contains a paper by Z. L. White on Metlakahtla, the famous missionary station on the north-west coast of America, which contains some interesting information on the Indians of that mission. The same subject is treated in the recently published book, 'The Story of Metlakahtla,' by S. Wellcome. Though the purpose of both publications is to extol the work of Mr. A. Duncan, the missionary of the village, and to support him in a bitter contest against the Canadian Government, some valuable ethnological information is contained in them. The horrible cannibal ceremonies of the Tsimpshian, the inhabitants of Metlakahtla, are described according to Mr. Duncan's statements. The initiation of young men who are to become members of this order takes place as follows: Early in the morning the novices would be out on the beach, or on the rocks, in a state of nudity. Each had a place in front of his own gens. After he had crept about, jerking his head and screaming for some time, a party of men would rush out, and, surrounding him, would begin singing. There are three orders among the Tsimpshian and their neighbors, — the cannibals, the dog-eaters, and the dancers. The dog-eating order occasionally carried a dead dog to their novice, who forthwith began to tear it in the most dog-like manner. The party of attendants kept up a low, growling noise, or a whoop, which was seconded by a screeching noise made by means of an instrument which they believe to be the abode (or voice?) of a spirit. In a little time the naked youth would start up again, and

proceed a few yards in a crouching posture, with his arm pushed out behind him, and tossing his flowing black hair. All the while he is earnestly watched by the groups around him; and when he pleases to sit down, they again surround him and begin singing. This kind of performance goes on, with several little additions, for some time. Before the novice finally retires, he takes a run into every house belonging to his gens, and is followed by his train. When this is done, in some cases he has a ramble on the tops of the same houses, during which he is anxiously watched by his attendants, as if they expected his flight. After a while he comes down, and they then follow him to his den, which is signified by a rope made of red-cedar bark being hung over the doorway, so as to prevent any person from ignorantly intruding into its precincts. Another remarkable performance noticed by Duncan is the following: At low tide an illuminated disk with the figure of a man upon it was lit up at the water's edge. It represented the moon, and the Indians suppose that the shamans are there holding converse with the man in the moon. Metlakahtla is at the present time a thriving village, with a saw-mill and canneries. It was founded in 1862 by a party of Christian Indians, who were converted by Mr. Duncan, and emigrated with him from Fort Simpson. In course of time disagreements arose between Mr. Duncan and the Church Missionary Society, to which he belonged. In behalf of his Indians, and for developing the resources of his village, it was Duncan's policy to keep new settlers out of the northern coast of British Columbia, and his influence helped greatly to suppress the disastrous whiskey trade. But, as the white population on the coast was increasing, his policy proved detrimental to the interests of the new settlers, as Duncan had practically attained a ruling power over the whole country, from the boundary of Alaska to Vancouver Island. This was the first reason for his disagreement with the Church Missionary Society and with the Canadian Government. The outcome of these disputes is the resolution of the Metlakahtlans to emigrate to Alaska.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Die Culturvölker Alt-Amerika's.* By DR. GUSTAV BRUEHL. Cincinnati, Benziger Bros. 8°.

DR. GUSTAV BRUEHL'S recent work on the civilized nations of ancient America is of great interest, as it is a comprehensive review of the culture of the Mexicans, Maya, Chibcha, and Peruvians from the point of view first expressed and developed by Morgan and Bandelier. While the Spanish chroniclers considered the constitution of these states as similar to those of Europe, Brühl endeavors to show, by an enormous mass of testimony compiled from all available sources, that there were no despots and no feudal institutions, but that the gens was the sole basis of the social organization of all American nations, even in the highest state of their civilization. The first part of the work was printed as early as 1875; but while it was in progress the views of the author were so much modified, and the amount of new material added by his own excavations and researches in Central America and furnished by other writers on this subject grew to be so large, that the publication was delayed for twelve years. The first part of the book deals with the ruins of the Mississippi valley, of Mexico, Chiapas and Yucatan, Central America, Colombia, and ancient Peru, and with those in the region of the Rio Colorado and Rio Grande. As it was printed in 1875, some of the statements made at this place must be modified; but nevertheless it is an extremely valuable handbook on this subject, on account of the clearness of the arrangement, and the care the author has taken in giving the sources of his information. A review of the methods of writing and of the calendar concludes the first part.

The second part is far more important, as here the author uses his extensive knowledge of the subject for proving the theory that the division into gentes was the foundation of the states of all American nations. He discusses the separate centres of civilization, and expresses his view that the heroes who first brought civilization to the rude tribes became their deities. He discusses the distribution of property, particularly that of land, the plan of the towns and houses, the giving of names, the religious worship, and finds his views confirmed in all these phenomena. Therefore the chapter on the social organization is by far the most important one

of the book. Though hardly any explicit statements of the division of these nations into gentes is given by the ancient authors, numerous remarks indicate that these divisions existed. Each gens had its own chief, and owned a certain tract of land. In case of war, the whole army was divided according to gentes, each gens being commanded by its own chief. A further proof for this theory is found in the laws of inheritance and marriage, and in the terms of relationship. Every gens had even its own deities, temples, worship, and its separate myths. Brühl considers the great states of Mexico and Central and South America as confederations of tribes who subjected other neighboring tribes, whom they compelled to pay a tribute. Nowhere were states formed by uniform nations.

*Die Erde in Karten und Bildern.* Vienna, Hartleben. 4°.

THE publication under review is an atlas, accompanied by text and numerous illustrations. It belongs to a class of publications which unfortunately is still entirely wanting in America. Our atlases are expensive, gorgeously colored, and generally not well drawn, while there are a number of European atlases which are sold at a moderate price, the drawing of which meets all reasonable expectations, and which are tastefully colored. The present atlas belongs to this class, but its characteristic feature is the accompanying text. The illustrations are carefully compiled from works of travel, and represent characteristic views, animals, plants, and ethnological objects, and may be used to advantage in schools, as they convey a good idea of geographical phenomena to the reader. The text, so far as we can judge from the numbers that have reached us, is not intended to be of a scientific character, but it is a popular treatise on geography. First, physical geography is treated. This will be followed by a special part on the geography of the separate continents and countries, and the last part will treat of commercial geography. The maps are well drawn, and the lettering and the topography are clear. The physical features are distinct, as the maps are not crowded with names. This atlas shows how far German cartography is advanced as compared to our own. There is no American atlas that can compare to this cheap publication, or to the well-known 'Handatlas' by Andree. Even the large and costly maps which are published in our country do not meet the wants of geographers so well as the German publications. But there is little demand for good maps so far. So long as our teachers are content with the low class of text-books and maps which are used in most schools, publishers will be reluctant to attempt the publication of costly works of this kind: but as soon as there is a demand, good maps and good atlases will be forthcoming; for there is no absolute want of cartographers, as the publications of our government, particularly those of the Coast and Geological Surveys, show.

*Comparative Morphology and Biology of the Fungi, Mycetozoa, and Bacteria.* By A. DE BARY. Tr. by HENRY E. F. GARNSEY, and revised by ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR. Oxford: Clarendon Pr. 8°.

ONE sometimes feels that English translations of German works above the grade of comparatively elementary treatises are unnecessary, since all persons qualified to understand the subject are presumed to be able to read the original. The present translation, however, shows that this feeling is erroneous. The original work of De Bary appeared in 1884. We say original, because, although, in one sense, the work of 1884 is a second edition of the second volume of Hofmeister's 'Handbuch der physiologischen Botanik,' published in 1886, the treatment is so different, and our knowledge of the subject has widened so rapidly within the last twenty years, that there is not much resemblance between the two editions. The work of De Bary is so well and favorably known, that we need not speak at length of its merits. In the chapters on *Mycetozoa* the author includes *Myxomycetes*, *Acrasie*, and some doubtful forms, but excludes many amœboid forms classed by Zopf among the *Schleimpilze*. The chapters on bacteria have been to some extent replaced by the more recent 'Vorlesungen über Bacterien,' by the same author. The original, it must be admitted, is rather hard reading for foreigners, in spite of its clear scientific treatment of the subject; and all English-speaking botanists will be glad to welcome the present excellent translation, which, while preserving the sense

and spirit of the original, presents it in a form which can be much more quickly and easily absorbed, even by those who have a good knowledge of German, and are acquainted with the subject treated. American botanists will now be able to read the admirable treatise of De Bary with ease as well as with profit.

*A Course of Practical Instruction in Botany.* By F. O. BOWER and SYDNEY H. VINES. Part II. Bryophyta and Thallophyta. New York, Macmillan. 8°.

THE second part of the practical botany by Bower and Vines is similar in form to the first part, which appeared in 1885, and is intended to be a guide to the student who is studying botany by the type methods. The common *Polytrichum* and *Marchantia* are used as illustrations of mosses and *Hepaticæ*; but the bulk of the work is devoted to *Thallophytes*,—a group which does not lend itself to popular treatment in a short space, for the types of reproduction are numerous, and the illustrations must be taken largely from plants which have no common names, in this country at least. The present volume is a valuable aid in the laboratory where the instructor prepares and selects the material, but it is not adapted to those who are obliged to pursue their studies independently of competent instructors. For the latter class of students, the chapters on *Thallophytes* are, as a rule, too condensed, and the absence of plates necessarily makes the text a little obscure for beginners.

*The Making of the Great West.* By SAMUEL ADAMS DRAKE. New York, Scribner. 12°.

THIS is a thoroughly commendable volume. It is constructed on the same general plan as 'The Making of New England,' by the same author, though dealing with a far larger and more complex subject.

It is too often the case that brief histories of the United States are written so entirely from an Atlantic coast standpoint that the great territory west of the Mississippi receives scant treatment at the authors' hands. Mr. Drake's plan of treating the various sections separately avoids this lack of proportion, and affords an opportunity of bringing the important facts in the history of each section into the prominence which properly belongs to them. In this volume the author makes three subdivisions. In the first we find a lucid and well-illustrated account of the planting of the Spanish, French, and English civilizations on this continent. In the second the territory acquired by the Louisiana purchase is treated, and then follows the story of the advance of civilization in the West up to the time that gold was discovered in California. The third section completes the story from 1848. Mr. Drake's conception of history is that of the late John Richard Green, and his narrative is accompanied with excellent sketches of the aboriginal and conquering civilizations. For that reason, as well as because of its pleasant style, 'The Making of the Great West' would be a valuable reading-book for grammar and high-school use.

*Three Good Giants, whose Famous Deeds are recorded in the Ancient Chronicles of François Rabelais.* Compiled from the French by JOHN DIMITRY. Boston, Ticknor. 12°.

IN this volume the works of the old French humorist are presented in an expurgated form, and profusely illustrated by Gustave Doré and A. Robida. The result is a book for children; but what its value in that respect may be, can only be determined by experience. There is certainly not much in it that is interesting to grown-up people, the humor of it being so extravagant that it often ceases to be humor. Children's tastes, however, are different, and with them the book may become a favorite. Such attempts to preserve what is best in old writers are in themselves praiseworthy; for the world is not so rich in good literature that it can afford to part with any of it. The illustrations, which are of the same fantastic type as the story itself, will add to the attractiveness of the book.

*A Collection of Letters of Thackeray.* New York, Scribner. 8°.

THE series of letters from Thackeray to Mr. and Mrs. Brookfield, which were lately published in *Scribner's Magazine*, are here offered in book form. They were written between the years 1847 and 1855, after the death of Mrs. Thackeray, and when their author was in the full flush of early fame. They show him in various moods, the humorous predominating, of course, yet oftentimes with